



Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

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November 1, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

COMMISSION REVIEW PROCESS – SUNSET REVIEW OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV HEALTH SERVICES

(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the ordinance extending the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Health Services to July 1, 2006.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

On December 1, 1994, the Audit Committee submitted its initial report in response to your Board's instruction to review the effectiveness of County commissions, committees and task forces defined under Chapter I of the Los Angeles County Committee Book. Consistent with your Board's instructions, the Audit Committee is submitting the results of the evaluation of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Health Services (Commission) performed by the Auditor-Controller, and recommendations from the Audit Committee for further action by your Board.

The Commission provides planning and evaluation of the County's Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) service delivery systems to improve the health outcome and the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included: the development of a Comprehensive Care Plan and a new HIV/AIDS Care Assessment Project that outline the direction and implementation of HIV/AIDS services and are more responsive to changes in funding levels; the adoption of a Patient Bill of Rights and a Board of Supervisors approved grievance process empowering service users; and acquired autonomy from the Department of Health Services' (DHS) Office of AIDS Programs and Policies (OAPP) securing independent facilities and staff in 2004 to improve the Commission operations and increase efficiency.

FISCAL/FINANCING IMPACTS:

The OAPP provides support for Commission activities, however, staff support is provided by the Executive Office because the Commission makes recommendations regarding program funding. Staff support from the Executive Office reinforces the Commission's independence when formulating funding priorities. The estimated average of OAPP's annual support to the Commission is \$610,000 a year; however, the OAPP estimates it will incur \$1.85 million in costs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-05 to support the Commission. Grant awards were an integral part of the annual application process for CARE Act funds and resulted in a \$34.7 million grant to the County for FY 2004-05.

There is no net County cost for supporting the Commission and Commissioners serve without compensation. When required to travel outside the County in the performance of Commission duties, members may be reimbursed from CARE Act funds for necessary traveling expenses, including transportation, meals and lodging. Travel must receive prior written approval from the Director of Health Services or his designee for reimbursement.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Commission was created by Chapter 3.29 of the Los Angeles County Code and continued by Board Order No. 40 of February 14, 1995, Ordinance No. 95-0010; Board Order No. 10 of January 27, 1998, Ordinance No. 98-0002; Board Order No. 91 of April 3, 2001 and Board Order No. 63 of April 10, 2001, Ordinance No. 2001-0039; Board Order No. 53 of January 21, 2003; and Board Order No. 13 of January 28, 2003, Ordinance No. 2003-0010.

To be eligible for assistance under the CARE Act, the County was required to establish an HIV Health Services Planning Council reflecting the demographics of those areas affected. Federal legislation mandates a planning council to obtain Title I CARE Act funds from the federal government.

The Commission consists of forty-nine (49) members, appointed by the Board and nominated by various task forces, community organizations and representatives from high risk populations concerned with HIV/AIDS and its impact on the community. The Commission meets eleven times a year and since October 1, 2000 to March 31, 2004, the Commission held 40 meetings with an average attendance of 31.2 (66%) members.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS:

Extending the sunset review date for the Commission will allow this body to continue in the effort to provide emergency assistance to those Los Angeles County residents disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic. The Commission can also continue to assist other public and private nonprofit entities in developing, organizing, coordinating, and operating more effective and cost efficient systems for delivering essential services to individuals and families with the HIV/AIDS disease.

For the next evaluation period, the Commission will complete the transition from the OAPP, continue to monitor and revise the Comprehensive Care Plan, and actively participate in securing the Ryan White Care Act Reauthorization in 2005. The Commission will also continue to assess the efficiency of the administrative mechanisms in allocating Title I CARE Act funds to the greatest areas of need; provide reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Director of Health Services on matters referred for review; act as the planning council for all HIV/AIDS programs in the DHS or funded by the County; and study, advise and recommend to the Board of Supervisors and to the Director of Health Services on matters related to HIV/AIDS.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUISA OLLAGUE
Chairperson, Audit Committee

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
Commission Services
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor Controller
Commission on HIV Health Services

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